



## **ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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March 5, 2004

Secretary Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WT Docket # 02-55

Dear Madam Secretary,

In order to deliver the highest level of quality law enforcement to communities throughout the country, it is essential for public safety professionals to have safe and reliable tools. As a police chief, I am extremely concerned about 800 MHz radio interference, a problem that has been affecting public safety departments for more than five years. Rochester is a small town in Massachusetts, but I have learned interference is a problem of cities small and large, urban and rural, Northern and Southern, Eastern and Western.

Any type of inhibition of communication between officers and dispatchers is dangerous – whether in an emergency or a typical response situation. These communication lines are the medium for critical information dissemination and enable first responders to be informed and coordinated. If their communication tools do not work properly, their safety is immediately compromised.


The Rochester Police Department would like to join with our public safety colleagues in support of a solution called the Consensus Plan. This Plan will eliminate interference by reorganizing the 800 MHz spectrum, whose interwoven licensing of public safety with commercial operators has been the root cause of the interference. Under the Consensus Plan, public safety will gain it's own piece of the spectrum to operate free from interference. Equally important for local public safety agencies, the Consensus Plan is completely privately funded, which means federal, state or local budgets wont be saddled with any costs.

I know some businesses in the cellular industry do not want to see any type of resolution because of competitive concerns. They complain about losing marketplace advantage, but have never positively contributed to the discourse by offering up any type of valuable strategy. The fact that the FCC is giving any type of credence to this distraction is concerning and sets a dangerous precedent for the future.

***"Dedicated to Community Service"***

I urge you to listen to the needs of public safety, which, in essence, are the needs of America's communities. Public safety radio interference is a problem in desperate need of a permanent solution. Don't wait any longer. Please do what's right and implement the Consensus Plan. First responders shouldn't have to fight with their radios while fighting for the safety of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul H. Magee", with a stylized, flowing script.

Paul H. Magee  
Chief of Police